

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

James F. Carlin, Jr., Antimony Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Elsie D. Isaac (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7950
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: eisaac@usgs.gov
MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999
Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 1999

Prices for most forms of antimony remained steady during the third quarter of 1999. The New York dealer price for antimony published by *Platt's Metals Week* was \$0.63 to \$0.70 per pound at the beginning of the quarter and \$0.62 to \$0.67 at the end of the quarter.

The price of high tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started and ended the quarter at \$0.90 to \$1.05 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) also began and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit.

China's antimony production accounts for more than 85% of total world output. In each of the past several years, China has produced more than 100,000 tons of antimony, most of which was exported. China consumes about 10,000 tons of antimony annually and exports about 50,000 tons of various forms of antimony annually. In 1998, the demand for antimony both domestically and globally was soft, and the domestic market price decreased to its

lowest point thus far during this decade.

During the third quarter, the Chinese Antimony Producers Association, met in Haikou, Hainan Province, to discuss the oversupply of antimony in the global and Chinese market. A consensus was reached that total domestic antimony output should be 60,000 tons per year. The China Nonferrous Metals Industry Import and Export Corp. set a priority to purchase stockpiles from those antimony producers that supported restricted production.

The Xikuangshan Mining Bureau shut down its two mines and three smelters in the third quarter. Xikuangshan had produced 20,000 tons per year, of which 95% was exported. In recent years, owing to low antimony market prices, production costs were higher than the selling prices, resulting in financial difficulties for the company. Over 3,700 employees were laid off and 3,600 more workers were idled for 3 months (Mining Journal, 1999).

Reference Cited

Mining Journal, 1999, China-tin: Mining Journal Annual Review, p. 155-156.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1998	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Production:				
Primary smelter 2/	24,000 r/	6,200	6,190	4,230
Secondary	7,710 r/	967	702	965
Imports for consumption:	34,600	7,630	12,800	5,580 3/
Ore and concentrate	2,020	123	488	497 3/
Metal	13,500	3,500	5,540	2,240 3/
Oxide 4/	19,100	4,010	6,820	2,840 3/
Exports:	4,830	1,210	888	535 3/
Metal, alloys and scrap	898	421	90	84 3/
Oxide 4/	3,270 r/	788	798	451 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,300	3,560 r/	3,250 r/	3,200
Price: Average cents per pound 5/	71.84	67.45	64.10	62.43
Stocks, end of period 6/	10,600	10,600 r/	13,300 r/	12,900

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for July and August only.

4/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

5/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

6/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	1999 2/		
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	2,600 r/	4,350 r/	5,240
Oxide	5,110 r/	6,040 r/	4,820
Other 3/	2,930	2,880	2,860
Total	10,600 r/	13,300 r/	12,900

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 96% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1998.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1998	1999 2/		
		First quarter r/	Second quarter r/	Third quarter
Metal	1,870 r/	503	301	352
Oxide	11,300 r/	3,040	2,940	2,840
Other 3/	139 r/	18	11	12
Total	13,300	3,560	3,250	3,200

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 79% of the total antimony in 1998.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1998	1999		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal:				
Bearing metals and bearings	33 r/	1	1	2
Other 2/	2,550 r/	485	227 r/	412
Total	2,580 r/	486	228 r/	414
Nonmetal:				
Ceramics and glass	1,660 r/	320	294	230
Plastics	1,590 r/	425	425	411
Other 3/	1,220 r/	199	223	170
Total	4,460 r/	944	942	811
Flame-retardants:				
Plastics	5,490 r/	1,270	1,300	1,200
Other 4/	728 r/	100	77 r/	83
Total	6,220 r/	1,370	1,380	1,280
Total reported	13,300 r/	2,800	2,550 r/	2,510
Full industry total 5/	13,300	3,560 r/	3,250 r/	3,200

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

3/ Includes ammunition primers and pigments.

4/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

5/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 79% of the total antimony in 1998.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1998	1999					January-August
		First quarter	Second quarter	June	July	August	
Ore and concentrate:							
Australia	572	--	347	319	65	149	561
Austria	149	55	12	--	--	--	66
China	1,020	68	130	48	48	--	245
Mexico	42	--	--	--	--	182	182
Other	240 r/	--	--	--	53	--	53
Total	2,020	123	488	367	166	331	1,110
Metal:							
Canada	225	9	19	11	--	--	27
China	11,700	3,250	5,230	1,390	1,430	508	10,400
Hong Kong	316	55	114	74	40	--	209
Mexico	942	127	151	--	61	132	472
Peru	157	52	17	17	37	33	140
Other	129	1	9	--	1	1	13
Total	13,500	3,500	5,540	1,500	1,560	674	11,300
Oxide: 2/							
Belgium	1,820	550	759	230	415	86	1,810
Bolivia 3/	2,620	159	523	189	148	--	830
Chile 3/	181	124	104	--	--	--	229
China	8,370	1,640	2,420	638	782	362	5,210
France	183	26	98	--	33	--	158
Guatemala 3/	266	92	33	--	15	--	140
Hong Kong	420	31	239	--	--	--	270
Mexico	2,390	1,000	1,200	510	250	269	2,720
Netherlands	166	81	--	--	--	--	81
South Africa	2,240	272	1,360	410	257	194	2,080
United Kingdom	77	11	33	32	16	--	60
Other	386	16	42	35	8	4	73
Total	19,100	4,010	6,820	2,040	1,920	919	13,700
Grand total	34,600	7,630	12,800	3,910	3,650	1,920	26,100
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	81	29	17	9	--	16	62

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

3/ Antimony oxide from these countries believed to be "crude" and would probably be shipped to refineries for upgrading.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.